

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Original): A method of enhancing mucus function comprising administering an effective amount of a mucothickening agent to a subject in need thereof.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the mucus function is selected from the group consisting of respiratory tract mucus clearance, epithelial protection, ion exchange and nutrient intake.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 2, wherein the respiratory tract mucus clearance is mucociliary clearance and/or cough clearance.

Claim 4 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the enhancing of mucus function is improving physical and/or biochemical properties of the layer of mucus lining the respiratory system, digestive system, urinary tract and/or the reproductive system.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 4, wherein the enhancing of mucus function is improving physical and/or biochemical properties of the layer of mucus lining the digestive system to enhance nutrient intake processes, epithelium protection and drug absorption.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 4, wherein the enhancing of mucus function is improving physical and/or biochemical properties of the layer of mucus lining the reproductive system to enhance conception and/or inhibit, transmission of sexually transmitted diseases (STD).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the enhancing of mucus function is for inhibiting aerosolization and/or transmission of an airborne disease.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 7, wherein the airborne disease is selected from the group consisting of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), tuberculosis and influenza.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein the inhibition of aerosolization and/or transmission of an airborne disease occurs by decreasing aerosolizable respiratory secretions in a way to minimize any adverse effect on mucus clearance, optionally in combination with enhancement of mucus clearance.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, wherein the enhancing of mucus function is for treating a condition related to thin mucus or cilia malfunction or non-function.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 10, wherein the conditions related to thin mucus or cilia malfunction or non-function include any condition of impaired airway secretion management.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn and Currently Amended): The method according to claim 11, wherein the conditions are selected from cystic fibrosis, asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), spinal ~~chord~~ cord injury, neuromuscular disease and those conditions or diseases requiring assisted mechanical ventilation.

Claim 13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14 (Cancelled)

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim ~~14~~ 1, wherein the mucothickening agent is selected from the group consisting of one or more of high molecular weight polysaccharides, salts of tetrafunctional anions, salts of divalent cations and polycationic agents, and other pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 15, wherein the mucothickening agent is selected from the group consisting of one or more of dextran, sodium tetraborate, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, polylysine, polyarginine and polymyxin B.

Claims 17-25 (Cancelled)